

EXETER, January 30, 1784.

The Part which has been taken by those who pass under the Denomination of Whigs, in signing a late Address to his M——y, from this City, being altogether new and extraordinary, as Mr. Pitt says of the State of the Nation, it may not be unacceptable to the less enlightened Reader, to see the latent Sense of this Address drawn out in the following Paraphrase :

WE your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, Citizens and Inhabitants of Exeter, heretofore Whigs and Friends to the Constitution and Government of this Country, as settled at the Revolution, having been smitten, we know not how, with a sudden and preter-natural Conviction of our past Errors and Misdeeds, in all Humility beg leave to prostrate ourselves at the Footstool of your M——y's Throne, to express the Shame and Contrition, with which we are now most deeply affected, for our undutiful and disloyal Behaviour towards your sacred M——y, in the Days of our Ignorance; more especially for having most presumptuously and seditiously asserted that we Ourselves—the People—are the Origin and Fountain of all Power, and have a certain Right inherent in us, and delegated, from Time to Time, to our Representatives, of watching over and controlling the Exercise of your M——y's Royal Prerogative, on which, in our unconverted State, we always look'd with an Evil Eye, as partaking of the Nature of absolute Monarchy: And we have moreover to deprecate your M——y's just Displeasure, and the merited Punishment of our most atrocious Conduct, in transgressing even the Bounds prescribed to us by our own Principles; having so recently aided, abetted, and encouraged to resistance your M——y's late Subjects in America, hereby (to our Shame be it spoken) contributing to bring on the many and fore Evils, which have drawn this unhappy Country to the Brink of Destruction.

Deeply sensible of the heinous Nature of these our aggravated Offences, we have no other Refuge but your Majesty's Clemency, to which alone we fly for Protection, hoping to be received under the Shadow of your Royal Prerogative, while we endeavour to atone, after the best Manner we can, for our former Delinquency. And we beg, with all Submission, that your Majesty will condescend to accept, as the first Fruits of our political Regeneration, these our humble and hearty Thanks and Congratulations for having exerted your Royal Prerogative in the Dismission of your M——y's late Ministers, under the peculiar and striking Circumstance of their being in the full and declared Possession of the Confidence of the H— of C——; and in continuing to trust the weighty Affairs of this Country to your M——y's present Ministers, though marked with the most pointed Reprobation of that H—: And we hereby pledge ourselves to defend and support your M——y in the further Exercise of your Royal Prerogative, in the immediate Dissolution of the Parliament, accounting it but just and fitting, that the great and important Objects of national Concern, which press for Deliberation and Settlement, should give Place, and wait upon the still greater and more important Object of electing, if, peradventure, we may be able to elect a H— of C—— more tractable and submissive to your M——y's present Ministers, who have laboured in the good Work of restoring your M——y's Prerogative to its ancient Splendor. And we hereby promise and engage, cheerfully to encounter and bear a Part in the Tumult, Confusion, and Mischief, which may be expected to ensue on such Dissolution.

In these dutiful and loyal Sentiments, may it please your M——y, it is our firm Determination ever to remain, and to them we are ready to sacrifice, as we now do, all our former political Principles, Professions, &c. &c. &c.